

Appl. No. 10/799,898
Amendment dated September 15, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed July 21, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A two-piece, two-stage, reduced energy mechanically-operating cartridge for launching a projectile from a dedicated or modified firearm, comprising:

- (a) a piston sleeve comprising a piston sleeve jacket defining a projectile cavity at a first longitudinal end for coupling the projectile therein, and a second end for coupling with a primary case, and the piston sleeve including one or more partially annular protrusion portions (hereinafter "cogs"); and
- (b) the primary case comprising a primary case jacket for being axially coupled with the second end of the piston sleeve, and including one or more complementary partially annular cogs to those of the piston sleeve, and defining a primary case cavity for coupling with a propellant mechanism, and
- (c) wherein said primary case and piston sleeve are configured such that an axial coupling of the primary case with the second end of the piston sleeve involves the respective cogs of the primary case and piston sleeve being initially offset, and
- (d) wherein said primary case and piston sleeve are further configured such that upon the axial coupling of the piston sleeve and primary case and at least partial compression together, the primary case and the piston sleeve become relatively rotationally movable to angularly overlap their respective cogs, the angular overlap being present when the sleeve and primary case are set into an at least partially compressed position, such that upon activation, when the piston sleeve and primary case telescope from the static position, the respective cogs meet at a particular longitudinal extent of the cartridge.

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Claim 2 (previously presented): The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the cogs of the piston sleeve comprise two or more spaced apart cogs.

Claim 3 (original): The cartridge of claim 2, wherein the piston sleeve further comprises channels between the cogs for mating with the complementary cogs of the primary case.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The cartridge of claim 3, wherein the primary case and piston sleeve are configured such that the channels of the piston sleeve slidably couple with the complementary cogs.

Claim 5 (original): The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the cogs of the piston sleeve comprise three or more spaced apart cogs.

Claim 6 (original): The cartridge of claim 5, wherein the piston sleeve further comprises channels between the cogs for mating with the complementary cogs of the primary case.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The cartridge of claim 6, wherein the primary case and piston sleeve are configured such that the channels of the piston sleeve slidably couple with the complementary cogs of the primary case.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the piston sleeve comprises a shoulder, such that upon activation when the piston sleeve and primary case are telescoping from the static position, said shoulder contacts an step between a chamber and a barrel of a firearm preventing the sleeve from advancing down the barrel, and instead the primary case thrusts rearward away from the barrel.

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Claim 9 (previously presented): The cartridge of claim 8, wherein the piston sleeve and the primary case include an annular protrusion, in addition to said cogs, for axially stabilizing the coupling of the piston sleeve and the primary case in the static position.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the piston sleeve and the primary case include an annular protrusion, in addition to said cogs, for axially stabilizing the coupling of the piston sleeve and the primary case in the static position.

Claim 11 (original): The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the jacket of the piston sleeve comprises a substantially non-deformable material, such that the piston sleeve jacket is reusable.

Claim 12 (original): The cartridge of claim 11, wherein the jacket of the primary case also comprises a substantially non-deformable material, such that the primary case jacket is reusable.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the propellant mechanism comprises a detonating primer.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The cartridge of claim 1, a regulator hole being further defined between the primary case and bullet cavities for regulating a velocity of the projectile upon firing.

Claim 15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (cancelled)

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Claim 17 (original): The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the axial coupling involves the second end of the piston sleeve overlapping the primary case.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A two-piece, two-stage, reduced energy, mechanically operating cartridge of reusable components for launching a bullet of non-lethal or lethal composition from a dedicated or modified firearm including a step at the interface between the chamber and the barrel, comprising:

(a) a piston sleeve comprising a substantially non-deformable reusable jacket defining a bullet cavity at a first longitudinal end for coupling the non-lethal bullet therein, and the second end for coupling with a primary case;

(b) the primary case comprising a substantially non-deformable reusable jacket for being axially coupled with the second end of the piston sleeve, and defining a primary case cavity for coupling with a propellant mechanism;

(c) complementary pairs of partially annular protruding portions (hereinafter "cogs") and channels for coupling the piston sleeve with the primary case, and

(d) wherein the piston sleeve comprises a shoulder such that upon activation when the piston sleeve and primary case are telescoping apart from a static position, said shoulder contacts a step between a chamber and a barrel of a firearm preventing the sleeve from advancing down the barrel, and instead the primary case thrusts rearward away from the barrel.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The cartridge of claim 18, wherein the piston sleeve and the primary case include an annular protrusion, in addition to the cogs and channels, for axially stabilizing the coupling of the piston sleeve and the primary case in the static position.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The cartridge of claim 18, wherein the propellant mechanism comprises a detonating primer.

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Claim 21 (previously presented): The cartridge of claim 18, a regulator hole being further defined between the primary case and projectile cavities for regulating a velocity of the projectile upon firing.

Claim 22 (cancelled)

Claim 23 (cancelled)

Claim 24 (previously presented): The cartridge of claim 18, wherein the piston sleeve and primary case are configured such that the axial coupling involves the second end of the piston sleeve overlapping the primary case.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): A two piece, two stage, reduced energy mechanically operating cartridge for launching a projectile of non-lethal, sub-lethal or lethal composition from a dedicated or modified firearm, comprising:

(a) a piston sleeve comprising a jacket defining a projectile cavity at a first longitudinal end for coupling the projectile therein, and the second end for coupling with a primary case; and

(b) the primary case comprising a jacket for being axially coupled with the second end of the piston sleeve, and defining a primary case cavity for coupling with a propellant mechanism,

(c) wherein the piston sleeve and the primary case include an annular protrusion for axially stabilizing the coupling of the piston sleeve and the primary case in a static position, wherein upon activation, the piston sleeve and primary case telescope apart from the static position.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): The cartridge of claim 25, wherein the jacket of the piston sleeve comprises a substantially non-deformable material, such that the piston sleeve jacket is reusable.

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Claim 27 (withdrawn): The cartridge of claim 26, wherein the jacket of the primary case also comprises a substantially non-deformable material, such that the primary case jacket is reusable.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The cartridge of claim 25, wherein the propellant mechanism comprises a detonating primer or a pressurized gas container.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): The cartridge of claim 25, a regulator hole being further defined between the primary case and projectile cavities of selected size for regulating a velocity of the projectile upon activation.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The cartridge of claim 29, wherein the regulator hole comprises an adjustable valve for regulating propellant pressure to launch projectile at a determined velocity.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): The cartridge of claim 29, wherein the regulator hole comprises a device to open or close pending need to regulate pressure passing through flash hole to regulate projectile velocity.

Claim 32 (withdrawn): The cartridge of claim 25, wherein the axial coupling involves the second end of the piston sleeve overlapping the primary case.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): The cartridge of claim 25, further comprising complementary pairs of ridge portions (hereinafter "cogs") and channels, in addition to said annular protrusion, for coupling the piston sleeve with the primary case.

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Claim 34 (currently amended): A two piece, two stage, reduced energy mechanically operating cartridge of reusable components for firing a projectile of non-lethal or lethal composition from a dedicated or modified firearm, comprising:

(a) a piston sleeve comprising a substantially non-deformable jacket defining a projectile cavity at a first longitudinal end for coupling the projectile therein, and the second end for coupling and decoupling with a primary case; and

(b) the primary case comprising a substantially non-deformable jacket for being axially coupled and decoupled with the second end of the piston sleeve, and defining a primary case cavity for coupling with a propellant mechanism,

(c) wherein the piston sleeve and primary case are configured such that upon coupling and activation, the piston sleeve and primary case telescope apart from a static position, and

(d) wherein the piston sleeve and primary case are configured such as to not substantially deform, and comprise reduced energy, mechanically-operating cartridge components that are configured for coupling and decoupling, and are reloadable with another projectile and rechargeable with another propellant mechanism, respectively, for reuse, and

(e) wherein the piston sleeve includes one or more partially annular protrusion portions (hereinafter "cogs") and the primary case includes one or more complementary partially annular cogs to those of the piston sleeve, such that an axial coupling of the primary case with the second end of the piston sleeve involves the respective cogs of the primary case and piston sleeve being offset and the sleeve and case being relatively axially moved and brought together, and wherein the primary case and piston sleeve are configured such that upon the axial coupling of the piston sleeve and primary case and at least partial compression together as to their combined longitudinal extent, the primary case and the piston sleeve become relatively rotationally movable to angularly overlap their respective cogs, the angular overlap being present when the sleeve

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and primary case are set into a fully compressed, static position, and such that upon firing, when the piston sleeve and primary case telescope from the static position, the respective cogs meet at a particular longitudinal extent of the cartridge.

Claim 35 (cancelled)

Claim 36 (cancelled)

Claim 37 (previously presented): The cartridge of claim 35, wherein the piston sleeve comprises a shoulder, such that upon firing when the piston sleeve and primary case are telescoping from the static position, said shoulder contacts a step between a chamber and a barrel of a firearm preventing the sleeve from advancing down the barrel, and instead the primary case thrusts rearward away from the barrel.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The cartridge of claim 37, wherein the piston sleeve and the primary case include an annular protrusion, in addition to the cogs and channels, for axially stabilizing the coupling of the piston sleeve and the primary case in the static position.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The cartridge of claim 35, wherein the piston sleeve and the primary case include an annular protrusion, in addition to the cogs and channels, for axially stabilizing the coupling of the piston sleeve and the primary case in the static position.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The cartridge of claim 34, wherein the piston sleeve comprises a shoulder, such that upon firing when the piston sleeve and primary case are telescoping from the static position, said shoulder contacts a step between a chamber and a barrel of a firearm preventing the sleeve from

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advancing down the barrel, and instead the primary case thrusts rearward away from the barrel.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The cartridge of claim 40, wherein the piston sleeve and the primary case include an annular protrusion, in addition to the cogs and channels, for axially stabilizing the coupling of the piston sleeve and the primary case in the static position.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The cartridge of claim 34, wherein the piston sleeve and the primary case include an annular protrusion, in addition to the cogs and channels, for axially stabilizing the coupling of the piston sleeve and the primary case in the static position.

Claim 43 (original): The cartridge of claim 34, wherein the piston sleeve defines a second cavity at an opposite longitudinal end from the cavity for fitting the projectile therein, the second cavity for receiving the primary case.

Claim 44 (currently amended): The cartridge of claim 34, wherein the projectile is configured such that an interior wall of the piston sleeve includes a substantially right cylindrical shape.

Claim 45 (withdrawn): The cartridge of claim 34, wherein the projectile cavity and the projectile couple in part due to retention protrusions protruding inward from the sleeve or outward from the projectile or both.

Claim 46 (withdrawn): The cartridge of claim 34, wherein the propellant mechanism comprises a primer cartridge, and the primary case cavity and the propellant mechanism couple in part due to retention protrusions protruding inward from the primary case or outward from the primer cartridge, or both.

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Claim 47 (previously presented): The cartridge of claim 34, wherein the propellant mechanism comprises a detonating primer.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The cartridge of claim 34, a regulator hole being further defined between the primary case and projectile cavities for regulating a velocity of the projectile upon firing.

Claim 49 (cancelled)

Claim 50 (cancelled)

Claim 51 (previously presented): The cartridge of claim 34, wherein the piston sleeve and primary case are configured such that the axial coupling involves the second end of the piston sleeve overlapping the primary case.

Claim 52 (withdrawn): A method of preparing a two-piece, two-stage, reduced energy, loaded and charged non-lethal, sub-lethal, or lethal, mechanically operating cartridge including a piston sleeve and a primary case, comprising:

- (a) loading a projectile of non-lethal, sub-lethal or lethal composition into a cavity defined within the piston sleeve;
- (b) coupling a propellant mechanism within a cavity defined within the primary case;
- (c) axially coupling the piston sleeve with the primary case including an initial relative axial displacement of the sleeve and the base to bring them together, wherein protrusions (hereinafter "cogs") are coupled with channels between complementary cogs of the sleeve and the base during the initial axial displacement; and
- (d) relatively rotating the sleeve and the base after the initial axial displacement such as to prevent direct axial separation, wherein the channels

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extend angularly such that cogs of each of the sleeve and the base are angularly overlapped after the relative rotational displacement.

Claim 53 (withdrawn): The method of claim 52, wherein if propellant is manipulated creating an overcharging, then the method further comprises separating the piston sleeve from primary case via a sheering action of the cogs releasing excessive energy preventing projectile of traveling at excessive velocity.

Claim 54 (withdrawn): The method of claim 52, wherein the piston sleeve comprises a substantially non-deformable jacket, the method further comprising reloading another projectile into the cavity defined within the piston sleeve for reuse.

Claim 55 (withdrawn): The method of claim 54, wherein the primary case comprises a substantially non-deformable jacket, the method further comprising coupling another propellant mechanism with the cavity defined within the primary case for reuse of the primary case.

Claim 56 (withdrawn): The method of claim 52, wherein the primary case and piston sleeve comprise substantially non-deformable jackets, the method further comprising repeating the projectile loading or propellant mechanism coupling, or both, with another projectile or another propellant mechanism, or both, respectively, and repeating the coupling and rotating steps for reuse of the primary case or piston sleeve, or both.

Claim 57 (withdrawn): The method of claim 56, wherein the sleeve and primary case of the two-piece cartridge of the reuse step are reused, respectively, with a different reusable primary case and a different reusable sleeve.

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Claim 58 (withdrawn): The method of claim 56, wherein the same piston sleeve and primary case of the two-piece cartridge of the reuse step are reused together.

Claim 59 (withdrawn): The method of claim 52, further comprising firing the cartridge within a chamber of a dedicated or modified firearm, wherein upon firing, the piston sleeve and primary case telescope apart from a static position.

Claim 60 (withdrawn): The method of claim 59, wherein the firearm includes a step between the chamber and the barrel, such that upon firing when the piston sleeve and primary case are telescoping from the static position, a shoulder of the piston sleeve contacts the step preventing the sleeve from advancing down the barrel, and instead the method comprises thrusting the primary case rearward.

Claim 61 (withdrawn): The method of claim 52, wherein the piston sleeve and the primary case include an annular protrusion, in addition to the cogs and channels, for providing stabilization when coupled, the method further comprising coupling of the piston sleeve and the primary case in the static position, including disposing the annular protrusion between and in contact with both the piston sleeve and primary case.

Claim 62 (withdrawn): The method of claim 52, wherein the propellant mechanism comprises a detonating primer or a pressurized gas container.

Claim 63 (withdrawn): The method of claim 52, a regulator hole being further defined between the primary case and projectile cavities of selected size, the method comprising regulating with the regulator hole a velocity of the projectile upon activation.

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Claim 64 (withdrawn): The method of claim 63, the regulator hole comprising a valve, and the method further comprising adjusting the valve for regulating propellant pressure to launch projectile at a determined velocity.

Claim 65 (withdrawn): The method of claim 63, the regulator hole comprises a device, the method comprises opening or closing pending need to regulate pressure passing through flash hole to regulate projectile velocity.

Claim 66 (withdrawn): A method of preparing a two-piece, two stage, reduced energy, loaded and charged non-lethal, sub-lethal or lethal, mechanically operating cartridge of reusable components including a piston sleeve and a primary case, comprising:

- (a) loading a projectile of non-lethal, sub-lethal or lethal composition into a cavity defined within the piston sleeve;
- (b) loading a propellant mechanism into a cavity defined within the primary case;
- (c) coupling the primary case and the piston sleeve together to form a cartridge;
- (d) de-coupling the primary case and piston sleeve after discharging the cartridge;
and
- (e) repeating the projectile loading or propellant mechanism coupling, or both, respectively, with another projectile or another propellant mechanism, or both, and repeating the coupling for reuse of the piston sleeve or primary case, or both.

Claim 67 (withdrawn): The method of claim 66, wherein the piston sleeve and primary case of the two-piece cartridge of the repeating step are reused, respectively, with a different reusable primary case and a different reusable piston sleeve.

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Claim 68 (withdrawn): The method of claim 66, wherein the piston sleeve and primary case of the two-piece cartridge of the repeating step are reused together.

Claim 69 (withdrawn): The method of claim 66, further comprising firing the cartridge within a chamber of a dedicated or modified firearm, wherein upon firing, the piston sleeve and primary case telescope apart from a static position.

Claim 70 (withdrawn): The method of claim 69, further comprising:

(i) axially coupling the piston sleeve with the primary case including an initial relative axial displacement of the sleeve and the base to bring them together, wherein cogs are coupled with channels between complementary cogs of the sleeve and the base during the initial axial displacement; and

(ii) relatively rotating the sleeve and the base after the initial axial displacement such as to prevent direct axial separation, wherein the channels extend angularly such that cogs of each of the sleeve and the base are angularly overlapped after the relative rotational displacement.

Claim 71 (withdrawn): The method of claim 70, wherein if propellant is manipulated creating an overcharging, then the method further comprises separating the piston sleeve from primary case via a sheering action of the cogs releasing excessive energy preventing projectile of traveling at excessive velocity.

Claim 72 (withdrawn): The method of claim 69, wherein the firearm includes a step between the chamber and the barrel, such that upon firing when the piston sleeve and primary case are telescoping from the static position, a shoulder of the piston sleeve contacts the step preventing the sleeve from advancing down the barrel, and instead the method comprises thrusting the primary case rearward away from the barrel.

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Claim 73 (withdrawn): The method of claim 66, wherein the piston sleeve and the primary case include an annular protrusion, in addition to the cogs and channels, for providing axial stabilization when coupled, the method further comprising coupling of the piston sleeve and the primary case in the static position, including disposing the annular protrusion between and in contact with both the piston sleeve and primary case.

Claim 74 (withdrawn): The method of claim 66, wherein the propellant mechanism comprises a detonating primer or a pressurized gas container.

Claim 75 (withdrawn): The method of claim 66, wherein the repeating includes repeating the propellant mechanism coupling for reuse of the primary case.

Claim 76 (withdrawn): The method of claim 66, a regulator hole being further defined between the primary case and projectile cavities of selected size, the method comprising regulating with the regulator hole a velocity of the projectile upon activation.

Claim 77 (withdrawn): The method of claim 76, the regulator hole comprising a valve, and the method further comprising adjusting the valve for regulating propellant pressure to launch projectile at a determined velocity.

Claim 78 (withdrawn): The method of claim 76, the regulator hole comprises a device, the method comprises opening or closing pending need to regulate pressure passing through flash hole to regulate projectile velocity.